

Reflection Monday Week 28 St Wilfrid - 2020

Born in Northumbria in 634, Wilfrid was educated in the monastery of Lindisfarne. He travelled to Rome with Benet Biscop, spending a long time at Lyons. This continental experience moved him profoundly and he showed keen support for the traditions of the Roman Church over against the prevailing 'Celtic' customs. He was appointed Abbot of Ripon and ordained a priest. After Aidan's death, the traditions of Rome and those of the Celts came into bitter dispute. In 664, the Synod of Whitby met to settle the issue. Wilfrid took a leading part, successfully arguing for the abolition of the Celtic traditions in favour of Rome. Within twelve months he was appointed Bishop of Lindisfarne and consecrated in Paris. But, being absent for a long time, St Chad, one of Aidan's pupils, was consecrated bishop in his place. Wilfrid appealed to St Theodore of Canterbury before being able to take possession of his diocese. He established himself at York, but encountered much hostility from the secular rulers of his day and even from men like St John of Beverley. Another dispute arose in 678 when Theodore attempted to divide the large diocese of Lindisfarne/York in two. Wilfrid objected and appealed to Rome against his archbishop. He was successful. But, on his return, he was imprisoned by the King of Northumbria. He eventually escaped to Sussex. There, he organised a mission to the South Saxons and people of Friesland, thus initiating the English mission to the Germanic people, continued by his pupil, St Willibrord. Wilfrid returned to Northumbria in 686, but was forced to leave. After appealing to Rome, he accepted a compromise by becoming Bishop of Hexham. In his monastery at Ripon, he introduced many additional Roman customs and reorganised it under the rule of St Benedict. He died in 709.

St Paul reminds us that we have been set free, a freedom received in baptism. True followers of Jesus hand over their lives to him, which non-believers see as giving up freedom. While those who reject Christ, reject God, claim to be truly free but become enslaved to themselves and their desires. Only with God can we truly see the innate beauty of everyone and anything. Only in God can we discover the true riches of love and goodness. Only in God can we be truly embraced and embrace others with compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience. Only in God can we find true happiness, joy and peace. Only in God can we truly be free!!

Q: Why is Cinderella so bad at football? A: Because she always runs away from the ball!

My Boss told me to have a good day So, I went home!!